

## BRIEFING NOTES

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| <b>NAME OF GROUP:</b>                   | PLANNING COMMISSION  |
| <b>DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:</b> | Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 1:50 p.m., Bill Luxford Studio, Room 113, County-City Building, 555 South 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska  |
| <b>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>           | Cathy Beecham, Tracy Corr, Michael Cornelius, Chris Hove, Dennis Scheer and Lynn Sunderman; (Maja Harris, Jeanelle Lust and Ken Weber absent. David Cary, Mike Brienzo, Brandon Garrett, Kellee Van Bruggen and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department. |
| <b>STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:</b>       | briefing on <b>"Fiscal Year 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program"</b>  |

David Cary stated that last year, this was combined with the Capital Improvements Program. That is on a two year cycle. This will be on the Planning Commission agenda in two weeks.

Mike Brienzo stated that this is a programming document. This is a document produced by the MPO. The TIP is a Federal requirement. It is a coordinated list of projects designed to meet Federal requirements for projects that receive Federal funds or are subject to Federal action. The document is then coordinated with the State. The State provides oversight. This covers four Federal fiscal years. Projects sometimes appear for multiple years for design and construction. Projects must come from the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan. The TIP is coordinated with the City, County and State Capital Improvement Programs. We are following the programming process identified in the Long Range Plan. We are beginning to look at updating the transportation plan now. Next year, Planning Commissions will see an updated version of the Long Range Transportation Plan. There will be a planning process that starts with City staff. State provides us their projects. The TIP is divided into sections. You will notice several projects that are being coordinated with the County. NDOR, County Engineering, Public Works street projects, StarTran, Airport Authority, RTSD and Ped, Bike & Trail projects are all included in the TIP.

Beecham noticed a project for fiber optic cable in the TIP. Brienzo replied that is a State project. They are using fiber optic to connect their ITS projects. The City has an ITS program also. These projects will allow coordination of signals so traffic flow is much smoother.

Brienzo continued that the MPO Technical Committee provides oversight. The Officials Committee is the decision making body. The Planning Commission is the citizen advisory group. This group makes sure that the issues of the general public are understood. The Planning Dept. receives comments. Those will be documented and become part of the TIP. The Nebraska Dept. of Roads will include the Lincoln TIP in the State TIP, which includes this by reference. Other agencies can use the TIP to identify funding. April 30, 2015 is the MPO Technical Committee meeting. May 13, 2015 is Planning Commission public hearing. May 21 is MPO

Technical Committee meeting and June 4, 2015 is the MPO Officials meeting. Then, the MPO submits the TIP to the State to be included in the State TIP. The NDOR holds public review of the State TIP and the MPO TIP. They then submit it to the FHWA and FTA. October 1, 2015, the final TIP goes into effect.

Hove wondered about the South Beltway. There seems to be nothing in the State budget either. Brienzo stated that the State is updating the environmental document right now. They are going through the study portion, making sure the right-of-way is in place, and that the design meets the criteria that is needed for an expressway. They are working with the EPA and FHWA to have the document done. Funding is out a few years because of the Build Nebraska Act. He expects construction to begin in 2020.

Hove commented that it seems ironic this is an environmental issue. Brienzo stated that the original document included the East and the South Beltway. Due to the age of the 2002 EIS and some missing elements, the EIS must be reviewed and updated. The State is being very cautious. The funds are in place through the Build Nebraska Act for a specified timeline. You will see the City has committed to twenty percent of the funding. They have already been working on their part. Everything is moving forward according to the current schedule. The Build Nebraska Act has prioritized projects throughout the State.

Scheer questioned if the design teams are on schedule or if there were any surprises that may delay the construction. Brienzo replied that they went through this process in 2005 when the plan was for all smaller interchanges. Since we found alternative funding, the designs have changed. The footprints have changed a little, but this is on schedule for State funding.

Cary stated that all of the funding won't be in place until 2020. It will take three, four or five years to construct this. This is the way it is laid out.

Sunderman heard that at one time, there were plans for Highway 2 to be constructed for six lanes. Brienzo stated that is in the LRTP. It was decided not to move this project ahead of the beltway. Once the beltway is done, that will be re-evaluated. The City has to work out arrangements with the State to transfer Highway 2 to the City. There are a lot of issues that need to be worked out.

Scheer questioned for Highway 2 to continue to operate until 2023 or 2024, what can be done to it? It cannot continue the way it is. Brienzo stated there have been discussions on how to keep it functioning which will likely require a number of intersection improvements. There are things that need to be done. The resources do not exist at this time to program it now.

Beecham noted when the Chamber had meetings with their consultant, they talked how the driver of the economy is attracting the millennials. One of those attractants is bikeable infrastructure. She questioned if Brienzo can speak to how bike lanes are a part of this.

Brienzo replied that the N Street Bikeway project is moving forward. It is a matter of how fast we can move on some of the other projects. The Beal Slough Trail project will tie into 56<sup>th</sup> Street. Beecham wants to make sure it is part of the discussion to think outside the box of the traditional model. She wants to make sure that bike lanes and trails are part of the discussion.

Cary stated that the TIP is a useful document to plan transportation projects. It also speaks to what is happening in the Comprehensive Plan and public modes of travel. On the biking side, a lot of work is going on. The N St. Bikeway is an important project. We are working very diligently on street projects, along with bicycle and pedestrian projects. Significant trail projects are included. There is a lot going on. Brienzo added there are a lot of trails being worked on right now. One project not in the TIP is a downtown project. The Bike Share project is being worked on. Cary noted that is meant for short trips, but it is another piece of the puzzle.

Kellee Van Bruggen believes it is very exciting that we received funds from the Nebraska Dept. of Roads for Bike Share. We will start with 15 bike stations.

Hove wondered about NW. 48<sup>th</sup> Street and if the Airport pays for any of the road improvements. Brienzo replied those are State and local funds. NDOR is using interstate funds for a new interchange at NW 48<sup>th</sup> and I-80. The City is picking NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street it up from there. There is also some rehab going on north of Adams. The Airport Authority is working on an industrial park. They have activity going on.

Cary noted that staff is about to begin the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The study will be going on for 18 months.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.